

METRO-EAST REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY

March 13, 2014 MINUTES

Chairperson Thomas Cannady called to order the February 13, 2014 meeting at 7:00 p.m. This meeting was held at Aubuchon and Cannady's Law offices.

PRESENT

Beverly Sweatman, Member
Thomas Cannady, Chairperson
Jane Nesbit - Member
Margaret Merrell, Member
Emil Wilson, Member

STAFF PRESENT

Michael J. Pinta, Coordinator
Teresa Parks, HRA Director

ABSENT

David Bollone, Member
Dr. Marguerite Riley, Recording Secretary
Karen Kelly, Member
Christine Anderson - Member

GUESTS

INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairperson, Thomas Cannady recognized that a quorum was present.

The Coordinator read the confidentiality statement that indicates that personally identifiable information should not be presented in public meetings in order to protect the privacy of those disabled persons on whose behalf the HRA conducts investigations.

Chairperson Thomas Cannady acknowledged that Teresa Parks, HRA Director was present and Ms. Parks announced that she would be assuming responsibility for the Metro East regional HRA beginning May 1, 2014 after Pinta's last day April 30. Ms. Parks stated she would attend all meetings and conduct the HRA's business from her office in Peoria IL.

The Chairperson asked for changes in the agenda.

The Coordinator and members welcomed Director Parks and newly appointed member Jane Nesbit. The Coordinator noted that Christine Anderson was also appointed though she could not attend tonight's meeting.

Director Parks informed members that the agency recommends the Chairperson and other interested members participate in a webinar regarding the Open Meetings Act in relationship to conducting meetings. Also, each member should complete ethics training.

Members discussed the meeting place. Thomas Cannady stated no problem for the HRA using his office and the possible use of the Caseyville Township Offices on Bunkum Road are available for use. It was noted the building is very large and it may be hard for persons not familiar with the building may have a difficult time finding the meeting room. Jane Nesbit stated that her agency's

offices have an available and that the building may be nearer to area highways for easy access. The members agreed to consider all options.

MINUTES

The members reviewed the stated minutes of the February 13, 2014 HRA meeting and considered them for approval. Members present agreed to approve the minutes with suggested corrections based on a motion by Karen Kelly, seconded by Beverly Sweatman.

COMMUNICATIONS: The Coordinator and members discussed HRA operations with the new member candidates.

NEW BUSINESS:

14-070-9017 - a consumer with depression was denied services because he had Blue/cross and Blue/shield insurance. The agency that denied services did not offer to help secure appropriate services. HRA tabled case opening the last meeting. Upon a motion by Emil Wilson, seconded by Beverly Sweatman, members agreed to case opening.

14-070-9018 - A person with a developmental disability was arrested after an altercation with staff that led to the police being called after the staff was injured. The guardian was concerned that there is a behavioral plan in place and that would seem to be the means to addressing aggressive behavior rather than arrest and pursuit of conviction. The case was tabled at the February meeting. Upon a motion by Emil Wilson, seconded by Beverly Sweatman, members voted to investigate the allegations. FAYCO Vandalia

14-070-9023 - an elderly man who may have dementia was evicted from an assisted living center where he lived with his wife after a behavior and elopement. The gentleman was hospitalized and could not be discharged from the hospital because the assisted living was taking rent money and his personal income was not available to him. An attempt to secure public funding for nursing home or other special care was thwarted because there was a lack of documentable information. Upon a motion by Thomas Cannady, seconded by Emil Wilson, members agreed to open the case. The Fountains Assisted Living in Granite City.

14-070-9024 - a consumer's mail (a package) arrived on a Friday and it is being held by staff and as of the following Wednesday, he had not been offered his mail/property. Members agreed to case opening upon a motion by Jane Nesbit seconded by Beverly Sweatman. Alton Mental Health Center

14-070-9025 - staff have restricted all clothing property that is "bedazzle" including a sequins after a consumer with behaviors had her property restricted. The facility did not offer notice of restriction. Upon a motion by Margaret Merrill seconded by Emil Wilson members agreed to investigation.

14-070-9026 - a consumer lost her privileges when another consumer threatened her. The staff told her the next day that she would not lose her privileges and then two days later she was reduced from supervised off ground privilege to supervised

building. She was also issued a notice of restricted communication after the incident. Upon a motion by Beverly Sweatman seconded by Emil Wilson members agreed to case investigation.

14-070-9027 - a consumer states that her health care provider assigned instead of public aid medical card is calling from Michigan and ordering her to see a doctor to determine if she has Alzheimer's disease. The consumer is a hoarder and housing has over, the years attempted to evict her, now the housing has the health care provider, doing case management and also attempting to force her to dispose of her property. The consumer has had calls from family and physicians offices that have information about her and she believes the health care provider has given out personal information without her consent. Upon a motion by Thomas Cannady, seconded by Margaret Merrill members agreed to investigate the allegation.

B. **Other new business:** The members discussed a meeting held with Alton Mental Health Center administrators, Beverly Sweatman and Christine Anderson. The issue of consumers being allowed possession of media property including lap top computers, games, iPods and other entertainment devices. After discussion, the HRA agreed to have the Coordinator draft a letter summarizing the conference and asking for a time-frame for the completion of the revised policy that the Center has been promising for the past year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Pursuant to Section 721 of the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Act and Section 42 of the Open Meetings Act, upon a motion by Jane Nesbit, seconded by Beverly Sweatman, the Authority went into closed session at 7:33 p.m. to discuss case progress and reports of findings.

14-070-9002 - Wellsprings of Jerseyville - transportation home from ER
 14-070-9011 - Memorial - Alton - turned away a patient at emergency room
 14-070-9014 - Alton Mental Health Center - visitation
 14-070-9019 - Alton Mental Health Center - forced treatment
 14-070-9021 - Midway Rehabilitation - discharge
 14-070-9022 - Wellsprings Resources (Alton) - teleconference for assessment

B. Reports of Findings:

14-070-9020 - Alton Mental Health Center - property and visitation

C. Case Closures:

13-070-9033 - Alton Mental Health Center - unimpeded communication
 13-070-9034 - Alton Mental Health Center - property
 14-070-9013 - Alton Mental Health Center - property

The HRA returned to open session at 7:55 p.m. upon a motion by Beverly Sweatman, seconded by Jane Nesbit.

Upon returning to open session:

Report of findings: Upon a motion by Emil Wilson; seconded by Beverly Sweatman members agreed to approval of the report of findings with suggested changes pending Administrative approval.

Case Closures:

13-070-9033 - Alton Mental Health Center - unimpeded communication

13-070-9034 - Alton Mental Health Center - property

14-070-9013 - Alton Mental Health Center - property

Upon a motion by seconded by Thomas Cannady, seconded by Beverly Sweatman, members agreed to table case closures at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS:

The next meeting will be April 10, 2014 at Thomas Cannady's offices

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Michael Pintar for Dr. Marguerite Riley, Recording Secretary